

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

Sub A1

1. A router comprising:
a routing component that implements routing protocols for data processed by
the router; and

an interface component through which a user may view and modify features
of the router, the interface component presenting the features of the router to the
user as a hierarchical tree having attributes that store values relating to the router
protocols and components that represent functionality of the router protocols, the
components containing one or more sub-components or attributes.

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2. The router of claim 1, wherein the interface component is accessible by
a user through a command-line interface.

3. The router of claim 1, wherein the interface component is accessible by
a user through a graphical interface.

4. The router of claim 1, wherein the interface component updates the
router component in real-time to reflect changes made by the user to the attributes or
the components.

5. The router of claim 1, wherein the router is a dedicated hardware
router.

6. The router of claim 1, wherein the router is a general purpose
computer.

Sub A2

7. A method comprising:

organizing features relating to routing protocols of a router into a hierarchically formatted component tree;

presenting a portion of the hierarchically formatted component tree to a user in response to a first command from the user;

modifying the component tree in response to a second command from the user; and

updating, in real-time, features of the router relating to the routing protocol that were changed by the user when modifying the component tree.

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8. The method of claim 7, wherein the hierarchical component tree includes attributes that store values relating to the routing protocols and components that represent functionality of the routing protocols, the components containing one or more sub-components or attributes.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein the first command is a display command.

10. The method of claim 7, wherein the second command is a set preference command.

11. The method of claim 7, wherein the user inputs the first and second commands via a command-line interface.

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12. The method of claim 7, wherein the user inputs the first and second commands via a graphical interface.

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A3

13. A computer readable medium containing instructions for execution by a processor, the instructions, when executed:
- organizing features relating to routing protocols of a router into a hierarchically formatted component tree;
- presenting a portion of the hierarchically formatted component tree to a user in response to a first command from the user;
- modifying the component tree in response to a second command from the user; and
- updating, in real-time, features of the router relating to the routing protocol that were changed by the user when modifying the component tree.

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14. The computer readable medium of claim 13, wherein the hierarchical component tree includes attributes that store values relating to the routing protocols and components that represent functionality of the routing protocols, the components containing one or more sub-components or attributes.

15. The computer readable medium of claim 13, wherein the first command is a display command.

16. The computer readable medium of claim 13, wherein the second command is a set preference command.

17. The computer readable medium of claim 13, wherein the user inputs the first and second commands via a command-line interface.

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18. The computer readable medium of claim 13, wherein the user inputs
the first and second commands via a graphical interface.

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